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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Change "Patent Claims:" to -- We claim --.

1 - 22 (canceled).

23. (new) A leveling bar for a coking oven, comprising:  
a pair of mutually parallel spaced apart substantially  
vertical cheeks extending over a length of a coke oven chamber;  
a multiplicity of coal entrainers spaced apart over the  
lengths of said cheeks, extending transversely between said cheeks,  
connected to said cheeks and occupying only a part of a cross  
sectional area of the leveling bar, said coal entrainers having  
heights of the entire spacing between said cheeks which are at most  
half the height of said cheeks; and  
a baffle-free gas passage formed in said leveling bar  
between said cheeks and above said coal entrainers over substan-  
tially the length of said leveling bar.

24. (new) The leveling bar defined in claim 23 wherein  
the number of said coal entrainers is selected so that a sum of  
surfaces of said coal entrainers exposed between said cheeks is at  
least equal to the sum of the exposed surfaces of coal entrainers  
of conventional leveling bars without the passage.

25. (new) The leveling bar defined in claim 23 wherein  
the coal entrainers are spaced apart by a distance corresponding to  
the height of the coal entrainers.

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